

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 02341 01 OF 02 240005Z

21

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-11 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07

LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 SAM-01 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /083 W

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R 232213Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7166

INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY LISBON

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMCONSUL BORDEAUX

AMCONSUL LYON

AMCONSUL MARSEILLE

AMCONSUL NICE

AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 02341

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PLAB, FR

SUBJECT: USO IN PARIS

1. A DELEGATION OF SPANISH TRADE UNION ORGANIZATION
USO COMPOSED OF JOSE MARIA ZUFIAUZ, SECRETARY
GENERAL; PACO GIMENEZ, ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL;
AND RAYMOND CASTILLO, USO REPRESENTATIVE IN PARIS,
VISITED PARIS 17-19 JANUARY AT THE INVITATION OF
CFDT. A JOINT COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AFTER THE VISIT
SPECIFIES THAT THE TWO ORGANIZATIONS DISCUSSED
THE EVOLUTION OF THE OVERALL SITUATION IN SPAIN,
FOUND THEMSELVES IN AGREEMENT ON SEVERAL POINTS AND
COMMITTED THEMSELVES TO MAINTAINING CLOSE
CONTACT.

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PAGE 02 PARIS 02341 01 OF 02 240005Z

2. ON 19 JANUARY USO AND CFDT HELD A JOINT PRESS

CONFERENCE WHICH, HOWEVER, WAS VERY POORLY ATTENDED.
THE MOST SIGNIFICANT COMMENTS MADE BY ZUFIAUZ
WERE AS FOLLOWS:

(A) USO HAS MADE ITS CHOICE REGARDING THE KIND OF TRADE UNION ORGANIZATION IT WANTS TO BE, NAMELY AUTONOMOUS AND INDEPENDENT OF POLITICAL PARTIES, AND ANTI-CAPITALIST ADVOCATING SOCIALISM TO BE BASED ON WORKERS MANAGEMENT (AUTOGESTION). BY MAKING THIS CHOICE USO SEEKS TO DIFFERENTIATE ITSELF FROM THE LENINIST-TYPE OF TRADE UNIONS WHICH ARE ARMS OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY AS IS THE CASE WITH THE WORKERS COMMISSIONS IN SPAIN AND THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC TYPE OF UNIONS WHICH MORE OFTEN THAN NOT ACCOMMODATE THEMSELVES TO THE CAPITALIST SYSTEM AND ARE SATISFIED WITH SUPERFICIAL REFORMS.

(B) WHILE AUTONOMOUS, USO INTENDS TO PLAY A POLITICAL ROLE IN SPAIN BY TRYING TO DEVELOP THE POLITICAL CONSCIOUSNESS OF THE WORKING CLASS SO THAT IT CAN BECOME MORE MILITANT IN THE CAUSE OF SOCIALISM. FURTHERMORE, USO IS COMMITTED TO THE IDEA OF A UNIFIED LABOR MOVEMENT IN SPAIN AND INTENDS TO MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO PROMOTE LABOR UNITY. IT REALIZES, HOWEVER, THAT THE PROSPECT FOR SUCH UNITY IS NOT TERRIBLY BRIGHT.

(C) USO IS REPRESENTED IN 30 PROVINCES IN SPAIN AND HOPES TO INCREASE ITS STRENGTH AND INFLUENCE BY WORKING WITHIN THE OFFICIAL TRADE UNION ORGANIZATION JUST AS THE COMMUNIST WORKERS COMMISSIONS HAVE BEEN DOING.

(D) ALTHOUGH UNLIKELY, ONE CANNOT EXCLUDE THE POSSIBILITY OF NEW ELECTIONS TO BE ORGANIZED BY THE OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED TRADE UNION ORGANIZA-

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PAGE 01 PARIS 02341 02 OF 02 232348Z

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 02341

TION. THIS ORGANIZATION HAS BECOME A STATE
WITHIN A STATE AND IT WOULD BE WRONG TO DISMISS
IT AS A GOVERNMENT PUPPET WITHOUT ANY EXISTENCE
OF ITS OWN. ONE MUST REMEMBER THERE ARE NO LESS
THAN 15,000 TRADE UNION FUNCTIONARIES WHOSE
LIVELIHOOD AND CAREERS DEPEND UPON THE CONTINUING
EXISTENCE OF THE OFFICIAL ORGANIZATION. FURTHERMORE,
THERE IS AN ORGANIZATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE THAT
HAS DEVELOPED OVER THE YEARS WHICH CANNOT BE DIS-
MANTLED OVERNIGHT AND WITHOUT SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES
EVEN FOR THE WORKERS.

3. IN A SIDE CONVERSATION WITH LABATT TOGETHER
WITH EDMOND MAIRE OF CFDT, ZUFIAUZ SAID THAT USO
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PAGE 02 PARIS 02341 02 OF 02 232348Z

IS VERY MUCH INTERESTED IN JOINING THE ETUC BUT
HE KNOWS THAT UGT WILL BLOCK USO'S APPLICATION.

4. JACQUES CHEREQUE, SECGEN OF CFDT'S METAL-
WORKERS FEDERATION, WHO TOGETHER WITH MAIRE AND RENE
SALANNE (INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS) TOOK PART IN PRESS
CONFERENCE, TOLD LABATT THAT HIS FEDERATION IS
PROVIDING TRAINING AND OTHER ASSISTANCE TO USO
WHICH IS MEMBER OF IMF (INTERNATIONAL METALWORKERS
FEDERATION). HE ADDED THAT REBHAN, IMF SECGEN, WAS
RECENTLY IN SPAIN AND PROMISED IMF ASSISTANCE TO

USO.

5. COMMENT: THE ONLY WORD WE CAN ADD TO THE
FOREGOING WHICH MADRID IS IN A BETTER POSITION TO
ASSESS IS THAT USO SOUNDS VERY MUCH LIKE CFDT IN
TERMS OF MILITANT POLITICAL TRADE UNIONISM WITH
DEFINITE ANTI-CAPITALIST IDEOLOGY AND A COMMITMENT
TO WORKERS MANAGEMENT (AUTOGESTION). IT IS
INTERESTING THAT THE USO LEADERS CAREFULLY ABSTAINED
FROM ANY REFERENCE TO UGT WITH WHICH, AS EVERYONE
KNOWS, USO IS COMPETING BITTERLY.

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